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THE ASBESTOS MINING INDUSTRY
1952



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NOTICE

The annual reports prepared by the Industry and Merchandising Division of the Bureau of Statistics are divided into 3 volumes, as follows: Volume I — The Primary Industries, including mining, forestry and fisheries; Volume II — Manufacturing; Volume III — Merchandising and Services. The volumes are made up of parts, and the parts in turn are subdivided according to the industries which they comprise.

Volume I consists of the following parts:

- Part I — Mineral Statistics
- Part II — Forestry Statistics — Operations in the Woods
- Part III — Fisheries Statistics

Part I includes the following reports which constitute the complete series on Mineral Statistics of Canada. Individual reports are issued as the information becomes available; they are arranged in a form suitable for binding.

- A — General Review of the Mining Industry, 50¢
- B — The Gold Mining Industry, 50¢
- C — The Silver-Lead-Zinc Mining Industry, 25¢
- D — The Nickel-Copper Mining, Smelting and Refining Industry, 25¢
- E — The Miscellaneous Metal Mining Industry, 25¢
- F — The Non-ferrous Smelting and Refining Industry, 25¢
- G — The Coal Mining Industry, \$1.00
- H — The Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Industry, 25¢
- I — The Asbestos Mining Industry, 25¢
- J — The Feldspar and Quartz Mining Industry, 25¢
- K — The Gypsum Industry, 25¢
- L — The Peat Industry, 25¢
- M — The Salt Industry, 25¢
- N — The Talc and Soapstone Industry, 25¢
- O — The Miscellaneous Non-metal Mining Industry, 25¢
- P — The Cement Manufacturing Industry, 25¢
- Q — The Clay and Clay Products Industry, 25¢
- R — The Lime Industry, 25¢
- S — The Sand and Gravel Industry, 25¢
- T — The Stone Industry, 25¢
- U — Contract Drilling in the Mining Industry, 25¢

THE ASBESTOS MINING INDUSTRY

1952

During 1952 the Canadian producers of asbestos shipped 929,339 tons valued at \$89,254,913. The quantity was 4.5 per cent less than the 973,198 tons shipped in 1951, but the total value was up 9.4 per cent from \$81,584,345 in the preceding year.

Salaries and wages amounting to \$23,625,431 were distributed during the year to the 6,318 employees. Fuel and electricity cost \$3,092,959 including 263,677,918 k.w.h. of purchased electricity valued at \$1,758,260. Process supplies and containers cost \$10,044,266.

The greater part of the asbestos output was mined in the Eastern Townships of Quebec in the vicinities of Thetford Mines, Black Lake, East Broughton and Danville. Ontario's production originated in Munro township with a small quantity from the Porcupine area. In northern British Columbia the Cassiar Asbestos Corporation was at the initial stages of production at the year-end.

The market demand for the shorter fibres decreased during the year, but there was a steady demand for the spinning grades. Price quotations per ton in December, 1952, were: Crude No. 1, \$960-\$1500; crude No. 2, \$595-\$900; spinning fibres, \$321-\$514; shingle fibres, \$150-\$200; paper stock, \$109-\$137; waste, \$77; shorts, \$35-\$70.

Considerable expansion is underway in the industry. The Canadian Johns-Manville Company is expanding and modernizing its Jeffrey mine, the world's largest asbestos mine, at Asbestos, Quebec. The Asbestos Corporation, Limited, is erecting a 5,000 ton per day mill at its newly developed Normandie mine near Vimy, Quebec, and Johnson's Limited is erecting a new and larger mill at Black Lake, Quebec. Exploratory and development work is being carried on at a number of properties.

In 1952 Canada accounted for about 66 per cent of the world output of asbestos.

TABLE 1. Principal Statistics of the Asbestos Mining Industry, 1950-1952

	1950	1951	1952
Number of firms.....	15	21	19
Number of producing mines	9	14	17
Number of employees:			
Administrative	663	745	810
Workmen	4,889	5,178	5,508
Total	5,552	5,923	6,318
Salaries and wages:			
Salaries.....	\$ 2,203,603	\$ 2,824,100	\$ 3,570,040
Wages	\$ 13,645,226	\$ 17,200,108	\$ 20,055,391
Total	\$ 15,848,829	\$ 20,024,208	\$ 23,625,431
Selling value of products ¹ shipped	\$ 65,908,396	\$ 81,624,009	\$ 89,295,913
Cost of purchased fuel and electricity	\$ 2,560,476	\$ 2,988,149	\$ 3,092,959
Cost of process supplies ²	\$ 4,257,597	\$ 5,493,491	\$ 5,805,278
Cost of containers.....	\$ 3,449,514	\$ 4,592,154	\$ 4,238,988

1. Includes value of sand and gravel.

2. Explosives, drill steel, etc.

MINERAL STATISTICS

TABLE 2. Production and Shipments of Asbestos by Canadian Mines, 1951 and 1952

Grade	1951			1952		
	Production	Shipments		Production	Shipments	
		Quantity	Selling value, f.o.b. shipping point ¹		Quantity	Selling value, f.o.b. shipping point ¹
	tons	tons	\$	tons	tons	\$
Crude - No. 1, No. 2, and other	861	748	568,725	695	741	726,827
Milled - Group 3 (Spinning)						
Group 4 (Shingle)	332,681	333,001	49,399,632	361,199	351,644	58,822,472
Group 5 (Paper)						
Group 6 (Stucco)						
Group 7 (Refuse)	658,224	639,449	31,615,988	575,957	576,954	29,705,614
Group 8 (Sand)						
Total, all grades	991,766	973,198	81,584,345	937,851	929,339	89,254,913
Gravel and stone (waste rock only) ²	33,762	33,762	39,664	35,317	35,317	40,513

1. Includes value of containers amounting to \$4,592,154 in 1951 and \$4,238,988 in 1952.

2. This production is included in the Sand and Gravel Industry.

TABLE 3. Tonnage of Asbestos Rock Mined and Milled, 1949-1952

	1949	1950	1951	1952
Rock mined	8,218,045	12,210,780	12,623,529	12,989,320
Rock milled	5,671,085	8,635,036	10,219,658	10,915,938

TABLE 4. Shipments of Asbestos by Canadian Mines, 1943-1952

Year	Tons	Selling value at works	Year	Tons	Selling value at works
		\$			\$
1943	467,196	23,169,505	1948	716,769	42,231,475
1944	419,265	20,619,516	1949	574,906	39,746,072
1945	466,896	22,805,157	1950	875,344	65,854,568
1946	558,181	25,240,562	1951	973,198	81,524,345
1947	661,821	33,005,748	1952	929,339	89,254,913

TABLE 5. Shipments of Asbestos by Canadian Mines, by Months, 1951 and 1952

Month	1951	1952	Month	1951	1952
	tons			tons	
January	74,125	76,287	August	80,398	76,659
February	71,463	69,036	September	82,479	85,986
March	94,905	72,059	October	82,504	89,405
April	86,767	81,301	November	85,623	81,493
May	93,241	83,358	December	67,676	65,894
June	82,990	78,250	Total	973,198	929,339
July	71,027	69,611			

TABLE 6. Number of Workmen, by Months, 1951 and 1952 (Administration and office employees not included)

Month	Mine			Mill		Total	
	Surface		Underground	Male	Female		
	Male	Female	Male				
1951							
January.....	1,888	28	1,107	1,971	2	4,996	
February.....	1,847	28	1,123	1,993	2	4,993	
March.....	1,864	22	1,147	1,998	2	5,033	
April.....	1,877	20	1,140	2,037	2	5,076	
May.....	1,945	27	1,142	2,046	2	5,162	
June.....	2,005	27	1,133	2,074	2	5,241	
July.....	1,973	28	1,155	2,069	2	5,226	
August.....	2,025	21	1,149	2,074	2	5,271	
September.....	2,010	19	1,132	2,108	2	5,271	
October.....	1,989	20	1,123	2,112	2	5,246	
November.....	2,049	24	1,133	2,126	2	5,334	
December.....	2,013	24	1,137	2,102	2	5,278	
Average.....	1,957	25	1,135	2,059	2	5,178	
1952							
January.....	2,039	24	1,147	1,921	1	5,132	
February.....	2,063	25	1,168	1,966	1	5,223	
March.....	2,044	19	1,168	2,050	2	5,283	
April.....	2,137	19	1,189	2,077	2	5,424	
May.....	2,207	27	1,213	2,095	1	5,543	
June.....	2,296	31	1,221	2,099	2	5,649	
July.....	2,299	25	1,195	2,092	2	5,613	
August.....	2,355	24	1,213	2,031	2	5,625	
September.....	2,304	23	1,215	2,050	2	5,594	
October.....	2,266	21	1,259	2,096	3	5,645	
November.....	2,322	27	1,241	2,124	3	5,717	
December.....	2,278	27	1,215	2,098	3	5,621	
Average.....	2,219	25	1,203	2,059	2	5,508	
				Administration and office	Workmen		
Total man-hours worked,—1951				1,714,314	12,622,744		
1952.....				1,774,194	14,012,175		

TABLE 7. Taxes Paid by the Asbestos Mining Industry, 1951 and 1952

	1951	1952
	\$	\$
Dominion income tax, including tax on non-operating revenue	10,135,132	11,434,101
Provincial taxes:		
Mining taxes paid on net profits from production, including portion paid to municipality	2,006,843	2,587,751
Corporation income tax where levied in addition to mining tax.....	26,107	—
Taxes paid on capital and places of business.....	52,658	69,307
Acreage taxes	2,520	1,251
Total provincial	2,088,128	2,658,309
Municipal taxes:		
Based on property evaluation	434,394	460,227
Grand total taxes paid	12,657,654	14,552,637

**TABLE 8. Specified Miscellaneous Expenditures by the Asbestos Mining Industry,
1950-1952**

—	1950	1951	1952
	\$	\$	\$
Workmen's compensation	321,471	360,953	347,131
Silicosis assessment.....	9,986	10,030	16,379
Unemployment insurance.....	121,247	146,257	160,347
Aggregate cost of all supplies purchased	7,939,233	10,831,083	12,296,745
Aggregate cost of plant and equipment purchased	3,092,303	4,624,730	6,508,133
Cost of buildings, machinery and equipment, erected or installed during the year	4,785,256	5,754,424	9,590,263

**TABLE 9. Imports and Exports of Asbestos and Asbestos Products,
1951 and 1952**

	1951		1952	
	Tons	\$	Tons	\$
Imports				
Asbestos clutch facings for automobiles, motor vehicles and chassis....	—	275,921	—	521,443
Asbestos brake linings for automobiles, motor vehicles and chassis	—	627,797	—	313,765
Asbestos brake linings and clutch facings, n.o.p.	—	105,429	—	109,078
Asbestos in any other form than crude, and all manufactures of, n.o.p.	—	2,159,662	—	2,231,536
Asbestos packing	206	259,644	153	222,539
Total	—	3,428,469	—	—
Exports				
Asbestos (crude)	660	548,403	692	704,920
Asbestos milled fibres.....	324,594	48,854,569	339,818	56,646,930
Asbestos waste, refuse and shorts	617,060	30,929,859	561,548	29,157,698
Asbestos brake lining facings	—	742,552	—	529,969
Asbestos packing	—	33,332	—	50,774
Asbestos manufactures, n.o.p.	—	722,107	—	684,392
Total	—	81,830,822	—	87,774,683

TABLE 10. World Production of Asbestos by Countries¹, 1949-1951

(Taken from the "Minerals Year Book" by the United States Bureau of Mines)

Country ¹	1949	1950	1951
metric tons			
Australia:			
New South Wales	284	380 ²	400 ³
South Australia	17	13	10 ³
Western Australia	1,318	1,250 ²	1,300 ³
Bolivia (exports)	182	166	316
Brazil	1,415	4	4
Canada (sales) ⁵	521,543	794,095	882,866
Chile	291	172	4
Cyprus	12,556	14,989	15,330 ⁶
Egypt	117	260	1,247
Finland ⁷	8,395	10,949	4
France	1,090 ²	6,080	4
French Morocco	402	511	604
Greece	9	30	4
India	148	211	4
Italy	15,877 ²	21,433	22,651
Japan	5,456	4,848 ²	6,139
Kenya	716	229	396
Madagascar	2	1	4
New Zealand	—	42	4
Portugal	101	271	4
Southern Rhodesia	72,246	64,888	70,454
Spain	40	41	4
Swaziland	30,814	29,635	31,719
Turkey	170	245	4
Union of South Africa	64,334	79,300	97,402
United States	39,360	38,495	46,851
Venezuela	192	190	260
Total (estimate)	975,000²	1,300,000²	1,400,000

1. In addition to countries listed, asbestos is produced in Argentina, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, Indochina, Korea, Tasmania, and U.S.S.R. Estimates are included in total.

2. Revised figure.

3. Estimate.

4. Data not available; estimate included in total.

5. Exclusive of sand, gravel and stone (waste rock only).

6. Exports.

7. Includes asbestos flour.

8. Less than 0.5 ton.

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Directory of Firms in the Asbestos Mining Industry, 1952

Name of firm	Head office or general office	Location of mine
Quebec:		
Asbestos Corporation Ltd.	Thetford Mines	Thetford Mines, Black Lake, Coleraine
Bell Asbestos Mines Ltd.	Thetford Mines	Thetford Township
Canadian Johns-Manville Co. Ltd.	Sun Life Building, Montreal	Asbestos
Continental Asbestos Co. Ltd.	Coleraine	Coleraine
Eastern Asbestos Co. Ltd. ¹	2, rue Brock, Drummondville	Coleraine
Empire Asbestos Ltd. ¹	175, rue St-Antoine, Thetford Mines	Thetford
Flintkote Mines Ltd.	Thetford Mines	Thetford Mines
Dominion Asbestos Mines Ltd. ¹	660 St. Catherine St. W., Montreal	St. Adrien de Ham
Golden Age Mines Ltd. ¹	85 Richmond St. W., Toronto, Ontario..	Beauceville
Johnson's Company	Thetford Mines	Thetford Mines, Coleraine
Lake Asbestos of Quebec Ltd.	120 Broadway, New York 5, N.Y., U.S.A. ...	Black Lake
Nicolet Asbestos Mines Ltd.	Norbestos, Warwick	Norbestos
Pittsco Explorations Ltd. ¹	Box 773, Garthby, P.Q.	Thetford, Broughton
Quebec Asbestos Corp. Ltd.	East Broughton Station	East Broughton Station
Ontario:		
Canadian Johns-Manville (Ontario) Ltd. ..	Matheson	Munro Township
Colonial Asbestos Corp. Ltd. ¹	144 King St. W., Kitchener	Munro Township
Van Packer Mines of Canada Ltd.	Box 1000, South Porcupine	Deloro Township
British Columbia:		
Asbestos Corporation(Explorations)Ltd. ¹	Thetford Mines, Quebec	Ainsworth, Slocan
Cassiar Asbestos Corp. Ltd.	85 Richmond St. W., Toronto, Ont.	McDame
Pacific Asbestos Corp. Ltd. ¹	525 Seymour St., Vancouver	Revelstoke

1. Carried on exploration or development work only.

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